

Message Text

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63

ACTION MMO-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 ABF-01 SS-15 SP-02 PER-03

NSC-05 OMB-01 COME-00 IO-13 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /061 W

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O 052130Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1321

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 1672

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AMGN, APER, NZ

SUBJECT: REPROGRAMMING OF E/C POSITIONS

REF: STATE 101921

1. FEBRUARY 1976 INSPECTION REPORT STATES IN PART: THE U.S. NEEDS "TO MAINTAIN A SMALL BUT COMPETENT ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL STAFF IN NEW ZEALAND..." "THE EMBASSY HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN INFORMING THE GNZ OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN US FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY AND IN CAPITALIZING ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE U.S. AND NEW ZEALAND TO ACT TOGETHER TO FORWARD THEIR COMMON INTERESTS. ALSO, THE EMBASSY AND CONGEN, AUCKLAND, SHOULD BE STAFFED TO ASSIST U.S. BUSINESS TO CAPITALIZE ON NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT..." "THE INSPECTORS... DO NOT FEEL THAT THE PRESENT VOLUME OF UNEXPLOITED COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AUCKLAND CONSULAR DISTRICT JUSTIFIES THE ASSIGNMENT OF A THIRD CONSULAR OFFICER TO AUCKLAND. (THE EVENTUAL IMPROVEMENT OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NZ, HOWEVER, COULD CONCEIVABLY WARRANT EVENTUAL RECONSIDERATION OF THIS JUDGMENT.)".

2. NZ HAS ONE OF THE WORLD'S HIGHEST RATIOS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE PER CAPITA AND IN RELATION TO GNP. IT HAS A HIGH PERCAPITA GNP. ITS IMPORTS INCLUDE AN IMPORTANT SHARE OF MORE SOPHISTICATED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS (E.G. COMPUTERS, LABOR- SAVING MACHINERY, ETC), OF THE TYPE THE U.S. EXPORTS. DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS NZ HAS BROADENED ITS PARTICIPATION IN AN INCREASING NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC

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ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE OECD, IEA, ADB AND GATT, REQUIRING

INCREASING CONSULTATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND GNZ. THIS HAS PLACED A CORRESPONDINGLY HEAVIER BURDEN ON THE E/C SECTION.

3. A THIRD CONSULAR OFFICER POSITION WAS RECENTLY CREATED AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL AT AUCKLAND PRIMARILY TO HANDLE INCREASED CONSULAR (ESPECIALLY VISA) WORK. EMBASSY E/C POSITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED. IT IS FELT THAT, UNLESS THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE FURTHER UPSURGE IN E/C ACTIVITY, THE PRESENT STAFFING PATTERN IS ADEQUATE THROUGH FY78.
KILLGORE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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